

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:CFE

APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:MWWILEY

OPIC:BHENDERSON (SUBST.)

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R 212154Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, TS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE METHANOL PLANT IN TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 6897

1. D'ARNOLD DAVIS FINALLY VISITED DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 18 AFTER DEPTOFF HAD CALLED ALLEN POWELL OF CONSOLIDATED NATURAL GAS COMPANY IN CLEVELAND. DAVIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD NOTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND WHEN HE SENT CABLE TO EMBASSY ASKING THEM TO QUOTE EXPEDITE DISCUSSIONS END QUOTE. DAVIS SAID THAT POWELL DID HAVE A MEETING WITH ROUROU WHICH LEFT IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTRACT FOR A METHANOL PLANT. POWELL IS NOW REFINING A NEW PROPOSAL GEARED TO LIMITED QUANTITY OF GAS WHICH APPEARS TO BE AVAILABLE AT PRESENT. PROPOSAL WOULD BE FOR METHANOL PLANT WITH MAXIMUM 15 TON CAPACITY. APPROXIMATE RPT APPROXIMATE COST OF PLANT WOULD BE DOLS. 30 MILLION AT TODAY'S PRICES. ACCORDING TO DAVIS, POWELL CONSIDERS THAT PLANT OF THIS REDUCED SIZE WOULD STILL BE FEASIBLE.

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DAVIS ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT REAL ATTRACTION WOULD

BE AS MEANS OF GETTING COMPANY'S FOOT IN DOOR TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HOPED FOR NEW FINDS OF GAS IN TUNISIA.

2. DEPTOFF REFERRED DAVIS TO OPIC WHERE HE HAD
DISCUSSIONS REGARDING BOTH FINANCING AND INVESTMENT
INSURANCE. OFFICERS OF OPIC SHARE DEPTOFF'S IMPRESSION
THAT DAVIS HIMSELF IS QUITE VAGUE ABOUT CERTAIN DETAILS.
HE WOULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, SPECIFY WHETHER ANY
CORPORATE ENTITY BACKS THE PROPOSALS WHICH HE AND
POWELL ARE MAKING. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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